

Serial Number: Not Yet Assigned
(National Stage of PCT/IB99/01945)

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-15 have been amended as follows.

1. (Amended) Blade crusher, [characterised by an operation] comprising means which combines a crushing action with a double shearing action in two orthogonal spatial planes.

2. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the orthogonal planes are vertical and horizontal planes.

3. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 1, [characterised in that it] wherein the means which combines a crushing action with a double shearing action in two orthogonal planes comprises at least two successive pairs of movable toothed blades forming jaws, each pair consisting of two opposite corresponding toothed blades [(1,2)] driven in a reciprocating motion moving them apart [(f2)] and bringing them together [(f1)] so as to abut against one another when the teeth engage in one another, at least part of the teeth of the blades [(1,2)] possessing a face oriented perpendicularly to the plane of the reciprocating motion of the blades, and the second pair of blades sliding against the first pair of blades so as to come into abutment in a position offset with respect to the abutment position of the first pair of toothed blades.

4. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 2, [characterised in that] wherein the blades [(1, 2)] constituting the pairs of blades are in a vertical position and have teeth [(11)] possessing, at least in part, horizontal surfaces oriented respectively upwards [(15)] and downwards [(14)], so that the double shearing action is due to a vertical shearing action produced by the crossing of

the successive blades sliding against one another, combined with a horizontal shearing action produced by the crossing of the faces of the teeth oriented respectively upwards [(15)] and downwards [(14)], sliding against one another.

5. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 4, [characterised in that] wherein the blades extend upwards by way of upper zones [(7 and 9 respectively)], which are likewise toothed, but which do not engage in one another, adopting in contrast a V-shaped geometric position forming a hopper when the toothed blades are engaged in one another in the lower abutment zone [(8 and 10 respectively)].

6. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 4 [or 5, characterised in that], wherein, in the abutment zone [(8 and 10 respectively)], the toothed blades [(1,2)] constituting the pairs are oblique.

7. (Amended) Crusher according to Claim 4, [5 or 6, characterised in that] wherein, in the abutment zone [(8 and 10 respectively)], the toothed blades [(1,2)] constituting the pairs possess a curved, for example S-shaped, profile.

8. (Amended) Crusher according to [one of the preceding claims, characterised in that] Claim 1, wherein fixed blades are interposed between the movable blades.

9. (Amended) Crusher according to [one of Claims 4 to 8, characterised in that it] Claim 4, which comprises in the lower part a cutout [(17)] forming a free space [(18)] in which the teeth of the opposite blade do not come into abutment.

10. (Amended) Crusher according to [one of Claims 4 to 9, characterised in that it] Claim 4, which comprises in the lower part and at the extremity another cutout [(20)] which cooperates with a nose or nib [(19)] projecting concordantly on the opposite blade.

11. (Amended) Crusher according to [one of the preceding claims, characterised in that] Claim 1, wherein the blades are brought together and moved apart on a linear path situated in the same plane, or in two planes forming between them an obtuse angle other than 180°, the converging motion in this case being oblique.

12. (Amended) Crusher according to [one of the preceding claims, characterised in that] Claim 1, wherein the blades are brought together and moved apart on a curvilinear or arcuate path.

13. (Amended) Crusher according to [one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it] Claim 1, which is in modular form, it being possible to add pairs of toothed blades alongside existing blades to increase the crushing capacity, or remove them to reduce the capacity, weight and space taken up.

14. (Amended) Multi-stage crushing assembly, comprising a plurality of crushers according to [one of the preceding claims] Claim 1 installed in series, [characterised in that] wherein the crushed material obtained by one crusher feeds the following crusher of the series.

15. (Amended) Medical waste-sterilising installation, [characterised in that it] which comprises, as a unit placed upstream of a microwave sterilising apparatus, a crusher according to [any one of the preceding claims] Claim 1 or a crushing assembly according to Claim 14.

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New claims 16-18 have been added.

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REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 1 and 3 have been amended to incorporate changes made during the international stage. Further, claims 1-15 have been amended to replace "characterised in that" by "wherein" or "which," to delete reference numbers, and to modify dependencies. New claims 16-18 corresponding to claims 6 and 7, respectively, but dependent on claims 5 and 6, respectively, have been added.

Early and favorable examination of the present application is respectfully requested.

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In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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